

# Living & Learning

Produced by the Bryan Independent School District & the City of Bryan

## ■ In this issue

- 2.....  
A message from Bryan City  
Manager Mary Kaye Moore
- 3.....  
A message from Bryan ISD  
Superintendent Mike Cargill
- 4.....  
Bryan Leadership Academy;  
BISD Education Foundation
- 5.....  
TexShare;  
School Library Services
- 6.....  
BISD Bilingual Services; GIS
- 7.....  
21st Century Grant; City Drainage  
& Transportation
- 8.....  
Henderson Park; Lake Bryan
- 9.....  
Service Learning at BHS
- 10.....  
Adult Learning Center;  
Wastewater System Improvements
- 11.....  
School Nursing Services; Ch. 16
- 12.....  
Bryan Visitor Center; Wrestling,  
Basketball Tournaments; Bryan  
FFA 75th Anniversary

Living & Learning is produced through a  
partnership between the City of Bryan and  
the Bryan Independent School District



**Sandy Farris**  
Communications  
Director  
Bryan ISD  
(979) 209-1022

**Jay Socol**  
Public Information  
Officer  
City of Bryan  
(979) 209-5120

## Tejas Center Celebrates HEB, Looks to Future Retail Openings

The official opening of the 95,000 square foot HEB supermarket at Tejas Center has sent a clear message to the community that the 34-acre site at Texas Avenue and Villa Maria Road is still a prime and viable retail location.

What used to be Manor East Mall – the premiere regional shopping destination during its heyday – is being transformed into what developers say, at 354,000 square feet of

gross lease space, is the largest open-air shopping center in a seven-county trade area.

Tejas Center also features new curb cuts at its entrances and exits, new parking lot lighting, signage and landscaping. Another amenity scheduled to open in early 2005 is Tejas Community Pavilion, which will allow local charitable organizations covered space to host fund-raising events.

## BISD Board of Trustees sets bond election for Feb. 26, 2005

Two propositions to expand facilities in the Bryan school district will be put before voters on Feb. 26, 2005.

Proposition I, totaling \$98.75 million, contains plans for a second high school, a new middle school, and a new elementary school to replace Bonham Elementary.

Other components of Proposition include renovations at Crockett, Ibarra, Kemp, Milam and Carver.

Land and infrastructure for new construction is also included in Proposition I.

Proposition II, totaling \$5.5 million, includes a gymnastics gym, renovations at Viking Stadium, and a natatorium at High School #2. The City of Bryan will be asked to help fund construction costs for the indoor swim facility, creating an opportunity for joint use by BISD and the city.

Enrollment has increased in the Bryan district two percent per year for the past five years. Current enrollment is 14,388 students. The total enrollment is projected to be over 16,000 students in 10 years.

BISD is currently at 94 percent capacity in elementary schools and 97 percent in secondary. Bryan High School is currently ranked as the twelfth largest high school in Texas.

Based on current data, the estimated increase in the tax rate is \$.13 per \$100 taxable valuation. The estimated increase equals to \$10.83 per month for a home with a \$100,000 taxable value.

The first of several public forums to provide information on the bond proposals will be held Dec. 16 in the Bryan High Blue Campus auditorium from 5:30-7 p.m.



### Now open:

HEB  
HEB Fuel Center  
Hastings  
Gold's Gym  
M&M Storage  
Bealls  
Payless Shoe Source  
JoAnn's Fabric  
Brazos Community Church  
Sally Beauty  
Family Dollar  
The Theater Company

### Opening early 2005:

Carter's Burgers (expanded)  
Subway  
Chef Cao's Restaurant  
Kolache Rolf's  
Hastings (expanded)  
Great Clips  
Bryan Nail Salon  
Liquor store  
\*Starbucks (in negotiations)

# Thankful for a Great 2004 in the City of Bryan

As the end of the year approaches, it seems fitting to pause and count our blessings and accomplishments. What a busy year it's been for Bryan, but certainly a productive one.

## **Our neighborhoods and streets**

We now have 21 registered neighborhood associations, many of which routinely visit with city staff to discuss issues that directly affect their neighborhoods. That kind of dialogue is good for all of us.

Having begun an aggressive street maintenance program, our labors are beginning to bear fruit. I have received comments from citizens in the community who are noticing the street improvements and they are most appreciative. In October, residents and businesses saw an increase in their Solid Waste, Transportation and Drainage fees on their utility bills. That increase goes directly into the street fund and will be used to continue our aggressive approach to street repairs and reconstruction.

## **Malls, movies, mulligans and more**

The rehabilitation of the Tejas Center, formerly Manor East Mall, has been evident throughout 2004. By the time you read this, the new HEB – one of the largest in Texas – will either have recently opened or will be opening shortly. The projected opening day is December 15. We look forward to this center once again serving as a premier shopping location for Bryan.

Late spring is the anticipated opening of our new 16-screen theater on Earl Rudder Freeway just north of Boonville Road. Once the theater and two restaurants that are planned are completed and operating, we expect to see more development occur between this location and the existing Jack in the Box.

Development is brisk at both Traditions and Miramont. Bryan is indeed blessed to have two such quality developments offering upscale residential lots on both the east and west sides of the community. Between the two, homebuilders are staying busy. And we like it that way.

After 20 years, the community is seeing work on the long-awaited grade separation at Villa Maria and Finfeather roads. Although it's a three-year project, we can all look forward to a Villa Maria Road that goes beneath Finfeather and the railroad tracks, allowing unimpeded travel from the east side to the west side, and vice-versa. Additionally, the entire configuration will be designed and landscaped in such a way that it will greatly enhance the visual appeal of that area.

## **Facelifts for Downtown and Henderson Park**

Phase One of the Downtown Master Plan is complete and the number of loft apartments is increasing. The city sold the historic Howell Building and it is currently being converted into loft apartments and a restaurant. Occupancy at the LaSalle is increasing each month and more people are discovering the charm of Bryan's newly revitalized downtown. We know it's working because the parking shortage is getting to be a bigger problem! Nearly 40 new spaces will be added on the east side of the railroad tracks between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> streets. Meanwhile, a contract for the design work on Phase Two (Bryan Avenue) has been signed and moves us further into the redevelopment of Historic Downtown Bryan.

Much of Henderson Park will be completed by December, although complete expansion isn't expected until late spring. Henderson Park is about to become the size of Post Oak Mall, and what a great amenity that will be for our residents who live near Henderson. It will also allow Bryan to attract more sports events to the city. Speaking of which, Sue Haswell Memorial Park recently played host to a statewide horseshoe tournament. Bryan parks are unrivaled in so many ways.

## **Best wishes**

Not long ago, Bryan unveiled its new logo and slogan, and we're so proud of it. We truly believe the energy and progress in Bryan have brought us *The Good Life, Texas Style*.

The Bryan City Council and city staff wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons and a prosperous 2005.

Sincerely,

**Mary Kaye Moore**

**Bryan City Manager**

WHAT A BUSY  
YEAR IT'S  
BEEN FOR  
BRYAN, BUT  
CERTAINLY A  
PRODUCTIVE  
ONE.



BRYAN CITY MANAGER  
MARY KAYE MOORE

## **BRYAN CITY COUNCIL**

MAYOR ERNIE WENTRCEK

COUNCIL:

JOE MARIN

PAUL MADISON

BOYD SHEFFIELD

MARK CONLEE

BEN HARDEMAN

RUSSELL BRADLEY

# Serving the needs of our students in Bryan Schools

We are having a wonderful year in Bryan ISD. The holiday season is filled with joy as students and teachers are actively involved in numerous community projects.

We recognize that educating the whole child includes helping to nurture the citizens of tomorrow. Giving back to the community is an idea we stress at every level.

Our Service Learning program is a national model site involving thousands of our students in activities ranging from United Way, Brazos Food Pantry, Drug Awareness, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Clubs, Salvation Army and many others.

A Bryan High Habitat for Humanity Chapter was organized this year with students making plans to build a home.

Elementary schools hold special seasonal events such as Grandparents Day and special Veterans' Day ceremonies to honor local citizens.

All senior English students at Bryan High participate in HOSTS (Helping One Student to Succeed) by mentoring a younger BISD student 30 minutes per week.

A number of schools have organized collections of goods to support our troops in Iraq

On the National Day of Caring in October, 18 different classes and organizations planned and hosted Kids' Fest at Jones Elementary School.

The Service Learning Youth Board has promoted a number of local environmental projects and has received an award from Brazos Beautiful for their efforts.

Bryan ISD staff serve and support the United Way's Success by Six Initiative; Brazos Food Bank Board; Children's Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee; Project Unity Administrative Committee; Food for Families Organizational Committee; and several other committees and organizations.

Bryan ISD staff will assist in the delivery of food to over 700 families over the holiday season.

Over the past 10 years, Bryan ISD has organized "Happy Healthy Kids Day," a free screening and immunization day open to any child in the Brazos Valley, age 0-5. Last year, over 160 children received free health, dental, developmental, hearing, vision, and speech screenings and free immunizations. Approximately 25% of children screened were referred to their health care provider or a local clinic for follow-up diagnosis and/or treatment.

Bryan ISD offers free GED and ESL services to any resident of the Brazos Valley, age 17 and up. The Even Start Family Literacy Program and English Language Literacy Program are available free to families needing adult education support (free child care is provided to those who qualify) or help obtaining a driver's license, work skills, or English language acquisition to work.

Bryan ISD is a district developed by thousands of students, parents, teachers, and administrators pursuing excellence through partnerships. We have a proud tradition based on a growing and vibrant community. We are building an educational system that will be second to none in its diversity of programs and ability to meet the needs of all children. I invite you to familiarize yourself with the details of our upcoming bond election as we plan for the future.

America's greatest natural resource is its children, and Bryan ISD will always put children first as we lay the foundations for America's future.

God Bless You,  
**Mike Cargill**  
**Bryan ISD Superintendent**

BRYAN ISD  
WILL ALWAYS  
PUT CHILDREN  
FIRST AS WE  
LAY THE  
FOUNDATIONS  
FOR THE  
FUTURE.



BRYAN ISD SUPERINTENDENT  
MIKE CARGILL

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MERRILL GREEN, PRESIDENT  
CARL HASAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
NANCY SIMPSON, SECRETARY  
DAVID STASNY  
BRETT CUMPTON  
CHRIS PETERSON  
DORA DEJESUS

# Resident experts



## ■ Bryan Leadership Academy now accepting 2005 class applications

Have you ever wondered how potholes are repaired or how the fire department is able to respond so quickly to emergencies? How does the city prepare its budget or decide where a park should be located?

The Bryan Leadership Academy provides citizens with answers to these questions and much more.

### **Academy goals**

- Improve citizens' understanding of local government
- Develop citizen understanding of their role in city government
- Provide an opportunity for citizens to become involved in civic democracy and to see how tax dollars work to improve quality of life for all residents
- Provide an inside look at the operations of the City of Bryan
- Entice citizens to become involved in their local government by volunteering for one of over 20 boards, committees and commissions

### **Academy structure**

- One eight-week session annually
- Eight weekly three-hour sessions
- Class hears from representatives of more than 20 city departments
- Light meal is provided at each class
- The Bryan Leadership Academy is free to all participants

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants cannot be running for, or currently serving in, a political office
- Applicants must be willing to commit to attending the sessions

### **Application deadline/Selection process**

- Deadline to apply for the academy is Friday, February 25, 2005
- 25 participants will be selected
- Notification of acceptance by March 11, 2005
- Class meets Mondays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., April 4-May 23

Learn more about the Bryan Leadership Academy, or fill out your application online at: [www.bryantx.gov/departments/executive/bla.htm](http://www.bryantx.gov/departments/executive/bla.htm). Still have questions? Please call the Bryan City Manager's Office at (979) 209-5100.

## BISD Education Foundation showing steady growth

The Bryan ISD Education Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization which raises private funds for the Bryan Independent School District. Our mission centers on the enrichment of academic opportunities – not just for a few, but for all BISD students.



Created in 1999, the Foundation is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors who represent a cross-section of the Bryan-College Station community and who are committed to making a difference for more than 14,000 students and 2,000 staff members in Bryan.

### **What we've done . . .**

Prior to the first fundraising campaign in 2000, the Foundation had already made an impact in the community. Formally organized during an effort to provide classroom libraries for the district's nationally accredited and state recognized early childhood program, community leaders raised more than \$60,000 to benefit literacy efforts of more than 400 four-year olds.

In addition, designated gifts to the Foundation included funding for an annual staff development workshop honoring outstanding faculty from each Bryan campus. A grant from the Dansby Grant Foundation provided funds to cover startup costs of the Foundation.

The Foundation also administers the Travis B. Bryan Scholarship Fund and the Stephen F. Austin High School Class of 1942 Scholarship.

Over the past five years, the Foundation has awarded 82 scholarships totaling over \$75,000 to deserving high school graduates, and 59 grants to 97 teachers in the amount of \$99,687 through the Grants-to-Teachers Program. Teachers submit their innovative ideas and creative teaching techniques through a grant application process and the most outstanding ones are recognized with funds for implementation. Grant winners for 2005 will be announced in January.

### **Where we're headed . . .**

We invite you to take advantage of the opportunity to support the students and teachers of Bryan ISD by helping us establish a strong endowment for the future and by funding student scholarships, teacher grants, and special projects.

For more information, contact Sandra Davis, Foundation Executive Director, at (979) 209-1057.

## Membership has its privileges

### ■ *Enhanced online research tools are available via B+CS Public Library System*

Searching for reliable information using Google or Yahoo can be frustrating, often yielding results that are inaccurate, cluttered with advertising or inappropriate for children. For those with library cards from the Bryan +College Station Public Library System, though, there is a better way to search for information on the Internet.

TexShare, a program of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, is a compilation of over 50 databases created through state-wide co-

operative subscriptions. The databases offer access to books and subscription-only magazines, newspapers and journals. Searches yield information and full-text articles from verifiable, authoritative sources.

Each TexShare database provides unique search engines that are designed to help users find exactly what they want. The databases can be used to explore a vast range of topics, from cooking and sports/recreation to academic and professional

research.

TexShare is like your very own virtual library, and you can search its "shelves" from your personal computer's Internet browser.

"TexShare is so valuable because it is trustworthy," Community Librarian Clara Mounce said. "The information you will find is dependable, which can be a rare occurrence when using the Internet these days."

And the best part: TexShare is a free, public service provided to Tex-

ans, and is available locally through membership at your public library.

Library cards are available at any public library location in Bryan-College Station and are free for first-time card holders. Once you have your library card, a librarian will show you how to access the TexShare from your home or office. System libraries include the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History, the Bryan Public Library and the Larry J. Ringer Library in College Station.

## School libraries work

### ■ *Librarians, facilities providing optimum educational experience for students*

School librarians impact students' lives. Librarians instruct students, collaborate with teachers, manage library resources, explore new technologies, and strive to create libraries that are exciting places. Exciting libraries? You bet!

Enter any BISD library and you will find a certified librarian who is trained to work with all types of people, a person who is eager to help students and teachers explore the world of information, to assist them in acquiring the skills needed to become life-long learners, and to instill a love of books and reading in everyone who walks through the library doors.

Staffing is crucial in making a library program work at the highest level it can achieve. Thirty years of research show that the school library, staffed by a professional librarian, is the learning hub of the school community, integral to teaching and learning.

#### **Helping Students**

Our BISD librarians

s p e n d  
hours in-  
structing  
students on  
how to for-  
mulate re-  
s e a r c h  
questions,

how to narrow their topics, how to use a variety of resources, and how to apply rigorous standards when evaluating any source, website or print material, for accuracy and credibility.

It is the librarian who helps students achieve the goal of "information literacy." To help meet this goal, Bryan librarians have become experts at putting together gateways for students who are searching for information. Our libraries have excellent computer and print resources that help meet this goal.

#### **Instilling the Love of Reading**

Bryan ISD librarians are able to spend time, especially at the elementary level, working to instill a love of books and reading in each

Librarians spend their time teaching students, reading to students, and collaborating with teachers. The librarians' time is focused on what is important – our students.

student. The librarians in our district work to make sure each child not only learns to read well, but also learns to love the books they read.

Improving reading skills also enhances test scores. Student success is tied directly to how well they read and comprehend what they read. The Accelerated Reading program is used to help with this process. It is important to give each student a large selection of reading materials to choose from, and BISD is working to give each library an adequate number of resources. Our students are embracing the reading program in our libraries.

During the first three months of school this year, August through October, 2004, our libraries have

checked out  
1 4 1 , 8 8 1  
books.

#### **The Library Processing Center**

One way  
Bryan ISD

supports the district library program is by funding the Library Processing Center. A manager and a clerk who take the details of paperwork off the shoulders of the librarians are a great addition to our overall library program. Having the LPC staff available to deal with vendors, book processing, purchase orders, equipment, and supplies, frees the librarians to work with students.

Many districts choose not to have a processing center and lose the benefits of such an entity. Not only are we using our professional librarians in the most important, positive way we can, we are enhancing our buying power, and we are maximizing our library budget dollars. Using the LPC gives Bryan ISD the most "bang for the

buck" when purchasing library materials and equipment which has become an important issue in this era of tight money and shrinking state funding.

Librarians spend their time teaching students, reading to students, and collaborating with teachers. The librarians' time is focused on what is important – our students.

Visit any Bryan school library and who knows what you will find – students dressed up as their favorite literary characters, a librarian helping a student choose a book, a student asking for help in finding an article online written by a well known literary critic, or a librarian helping a student put together a PowerPoint presentation about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Whatever is happening at any given time in our libraries one thing is sure – the BISD library program works, and it advances student achievement. Come and see for yourself!



# Migrant services



## ■ Bryan ISD offers multitude of services, programs for students

The Migrant Program of the Bryan Independent School District serves students whose families have moved from one district to another seeking certain agricultural work. The Migrant Program is a supplementary program. These services are in addition to what is offered to children through the regular school program.

### **Graduation Enhancement Services**

#### *Youth Educational Services*

Meetings are held with high school and middle school students to discuss educational needs. Topics covered may include: progress reports, students at risk, truancy, credit accrual, tutorials at Bryan High School, graduation enhancement planning, scholarships, and financial aid.

### *The University of Texas at Austin Migrant Student Enhancement Program*

This program allows all certified migrant high school students to continue education outside of the classroom. All courses count toward graduation and fulfill TEKS requirements. Laptop computers are provided to assist students in their education.

### **Supplemental Education Services**

#### *Supplemental Tutorials*

Bilingual tutors help high school students with core curriculum classes during and after school.

#### *Project Smart*

Televised instructional curriculum related to the TAKS is offered in Migrant Summer School.

Students are informed of resources to obtain school supplies, and participate in hands-on interactive activities and educational field trips.

#### *Building Bridges*

Educational enhancement for three and four-year olds is offered through home-based education involving parents. The educational program is coordinated with Head Start and Even Start.

### **Parent Involvement**

#### *Community Involvement*

Migrant parents are informed of community resources through recruitment of A&M students as tutors, guest speakers, financial aid workshops, contributions from local businesses, supplemental need referrals, and health referrals. Parent Advisory Committee

Parents assist in directing the Migrant Program through academic awareness, identifying educational needs, and utilizing community resources.

#### *Parent Meeting*

Parents are kept informed of TEKS/TAKS, truancy issues, summer school dates, graduation enhancement opportunities, and community service.

## HIGH-TECH Garage Sales?

## ■ *Bryan computerized map soars in popularity, features offered*

Nearly a year after the public launch of Bryan's Geographic Information System (GIS), the online information-access and decision-making tool is more popular than ever, averaging more than 15,000 hits each day.

All told, GIS has received in excess of 6 million hits from Web surfers: government offices, realtors and developers, university students, newspaper circulation departments and the average citizen who just wants to do a little research without leaving the home or office.

### **About GIS**

Bryan's GIS offers multiple layers of information about the city in any combination the user de-

sires. Think of the GIS as a computerized map where the user chooses only the layers that he needs. Property lines and ownership, zoning, park information, voter precincts, aerial imagery, even days of trash pickup are among the over 90 layers of data visually represented.

GIS can allow the Bryan Police Department to analyze crime trends in a specific area of the city, but at the same time help parents find the park with the perfect amenities to host a child's birthday party. There's truly something for everyone.

### **Garage sales?**

The newest public map service focuses on garage sales in the City of Bryan. When a garage sale permit is purchased, the information is entered into the GIS database and the event's location is plotted on the map. So garage sale fanatics need only zoom into the desired area of the city, print a copy of the map, plot their most-efficient route, and spend less time wandering unfamiliar neighborhoods and more time hunting for bargains.

Offering that level of convenience, it's no wonder that the garage sale map service is already one of the most visited at [www.bryantx.gov](http://www.bryantx.gov).

### **The future of Bryan GIS**

According to GIS Coordinator Gus Roman, there is no limit to GIS's uses.

"Soon, Bryan Police Department crime statistics will be available to show overnight criminal activity," Roman said. "A shift to live data, such as inspection updates, will mean that people aren't forced to stop by city hall to access information. If you can dream it, we can probably make it happen."

Roman says Bryan's GIS is viewed as a model by many larger cities that have not been able to implement their own GIS in such a short time.

"I run into that question all the time at various conferences around the country," Roman said. "The key is everyone in the City of Bryan organization bought into it. That makes a huge difference. Even Belize and the Dominican Republic are turning to us for guidance in establishing their own Geographic Information Systems. What a great compliment."

### **Getting started**

To access Bryan GIS, visit [www.bryantx.gov](http://www.bryantx.gov) and click *Maps* in the navigation bar. Questions? Contact Gus Roman at (979) 209-5476 or [groman@bryantx.gov](mailto:groman@bryantx.gov).

## 21st Century Grant creating positive experience for students

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant kicked off in October with approximately 300 students in Jones, Milam, Kemp and Long. This grant was awarded through the Department of Education and is designed to give students a positive experience, prevent violence, drugs, gangs, pregnancy, etc. and to give help with homework and tutorials in math, reading, writing, science and social studies.

Although any student in the school can participate, the grant is designed to target students who are at risk. For these students, the goal is to view school as a positive experience so as to avoid becoming involved in negative activities.

The grant has many important goals: regular student attendance, higher student achievement, fewer discipline referrals and a passing score on the TAKS exam.

Promoting health and physical fitness is also important. Each day students are given a healthy snack provided by the cafeteria. In addition, the Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley is partnering with Bryan ISD to provide physical activities for each student at least twice a week.

Another goal is for students to find something about which they can have a life-long passion. Through the enrichment classes that are offered, students are exposed to many activities they would not experience otherwise. Each student participates in one hour of tutorials/homework help and two hours of enrichment. Some of the activities in which the students participated in the fall were model cars, arts and crafts, sewing, sign language, STEP (a very athletic dance), music, computers and many more.

This grant is a great opportunity for the community, school district, and all people who are interested in children to become involved in after school programming.

Any questions can be referred to:  
Holley Mohr, Director, 979-209-3916  
Lisa Martinez, Secretary, 979-209-3915  
Brodrick Ross, Coordinator, Jones Elementary, (979) 209-3917  
Mark Taplette, Coordinator, Jane Long Middle School, (979) 209-6551  
Bernadette Revilla, Coordinator, Kemp Elementary, (979) 209-3762

## Residents to enjoy better streets with new fee structure

Have your BTU bills increased, but you're not sure why? The answer might be your Drainage and Transportation Fees – two of the itemized, monthly charges on your statement that were increased in October.

### Why fees for drainage and transportation?

Drainage and Transportation Fees were established by the Bryan City Council in 1997. The drainage portion funds flood studies, addresses capital improvements to floodplains and helps solve non-floodplain (or secondary) drainage issues, while the transportation fee is the largest funding source for maintaining Bryan's street system.

The City of Bryan has approximately 646 lane miles of paved streets, and it's no secret that much of that infrastructure is old and was never designed to handle the type and volume of traffic seen today. In fact, the city has nearly \$12 million worth of street repairs that need to be performed, and this new, interim fee structure will result in a quicker reduction of that backlog.

Since 2000, revenues from the Drainage and Transportation Fees have remained relatively constant at a combined \$1.8 million dollars, but operating costs continue to rise. With rising operating costs and a decrease in funding, fewer streets receive the attention they need. An increase in fees allows the city to halt the trend of streets deteriorating faster than repairs can be funded.

### Drainage and Transportation Fees interim structure

The fee increase that went into effect Oct. 1 is assessed to all solid waste customers within the Bryan city limits. Since the establishment of both the Drainage and Transportation Fees, they have been assessed equally to both residential and commercial solid waste customers. Prior to Oct. 1, the fees were a combined \$6.50 per month.

But after a city council review of the fee structure, as well as a review of the apparent inequity of charging both commercial and resi-

dential solid waste customers the same rate, changes were recommended. Because residential and commercial customers clearly do not contribute equally to the impact on Bryan's transportation and drainage systems, the city council determined that commercial customers should pay a higher monthly fee. Therefore, the current interim fee structure that is based on solid waste customers is \$10 for residential customers and \$35 for commercial customers.

### Permanent fee structure in 2005?

The interim fees will likely remain in effect until summer 2005 when the Bryan City Council is expected to implement a more permanent rate structure based on electrical customers.

Residential electrical customers will remain at \$10 per month, while non-residential customers will be assessed a fee of either \$35, \$65 or \$150. The non-residential rate will be based on a building's square footage, trips generated and land use. It is anticipated that 63 percent of the non-residential electrical customers will fall into the \$35 category, 35 percent into the \$65 category, and 2 percent in the \$150 category. The Bryan City Council will review these fees annually.

Questions about the fees? Contact the Bryan City Manager's Office at (979) 209-5100.



## You want that park super-sized?

### ■ *Henderson pool and skateboard facility will highlight city's second-largest park*

Imagine a park the size of Post Oak Mall in your neighborhood. And the park has practically every amenity you could want: A swimming pool with a water slide and spray attractions; lots of fields for baseball, softball and soccer, and courts for basketball and volleyball; a walking trail, picnic areas, horseshoe pits and even a lighted skateboard park.

That's what's going on at Henderson Park, which previously occupied about 20 acres in Bryan's Single Member District 1, but is being transformed into a 52-acre regional park with dozens of attractions for adults and children alike.

Here's a breakdown of progress by activity:

#### **Swimming**

The new zero-grade pool is about 90 percent complete, and the colorful shade canopies and water attractions have all been installed. The bathhouse is being completed this month, and the grand opening for the pool is set for early May.

#### **Trails**

Final touches are being made to the half-mile nature trail, which winds through a beautiful five-acre nature preserve.

#### **Hoops and skates**

The sports pavilion is also nearing completion, and will offer six basketball goals, two of which are adjustable for younger children. Additionally, the concrete slab for the skate park is ready, and its ramps and obstacles soon will be installed. This will be Bryan's second free skate park.

#### **Fields of dreams**

The three baseball fields and four soccer fields have recently been hydromulched and all of the light posts have been installed. The fields are scheduled to be ready for play by early summer.

#### **Other amenities**

Henderson Park will also feature a sand vol-



leyball court, two horseshoe pits and a covered picnic pavilion with ten picnic pads, all of which have been completed.

All said, the majority of the park's features are scheduled to be ready for use by early spring.

The Henderson Park Expansion Project is co-operatively funded by the City of Bryan, a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Bryan ISD, and the Ben Milam Elementary School PTO.

## Lake Bryan: It may be the coolest place you've never visited

It might be the best-kept secret in Central Texas. And if you're an avid mountain biker, camper, fisherman, or water sports enthusiast, you might want to keep it that way.

But don't count on it.

Lake Bryan is quickly and quietly becoming a destination for all things outdoors. Now under new management, the 828-acre lake boasts improved campsites and a relaxing lakeside bar and grill, while often playing host to music festivals and drag boat, Jet Ski and bicycle races.

#### **Two-wheeling**

Mountain bikers have long known Lake Bryan to be home of some of the most-challenging and best-maintained trails in Texas. Feature areas include Munnerlyn Bridge, Godzilla's Tail, the Blair Witch Woods, Little Warda, Half-Pipe and Hutch's Hell. Don't be scared: Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned rider, Lake Bryan's 20 miles of trails has something for everyone. Triathlons and the annual Power Pedal state road race use Lake Bryan as a backdrop.

#### **Extreme water sports**

With Texas A&M University only minutes away, Lake Bryan is earning a reputation as a place where you can enjoy a one-of-a-kind study break! Wakeboarding and water skiing are the most popular amateur activities. But even the pros flock to Lake Bryan for the Southern Drag Boat

Association's Drag Boat Nationals, and the Texas Aquamoto watercraft racing events.

#### **Camping & RVing**

Whether you enjoy a climate-controlled RV experience, or the solitude of primitive camping beneath 100-year-old oak trees, Lake Bryan is the perfect place to get away from it all.

Online reservations are accepted at [www.lakebryan.com](http://www.lakebryan.com) or at (979) 361-0861.

Watch the sun disappear over the lake's horizon – the best sunsets in the Brazos Valley!

#### **Fishing**

Your chances of catching a bass to brag about are excellent at Lake Bryan. Best bets are large-mouth bass, white bass, sunfish and catfish. Anglers also have plenty of luck with smallmouth bass and crappie.

#### **Birding**

Birding at Lake Bryan? Absolutely! Among birders, the lake is known for accidentals including Baird's Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone and Tundra Swan. Don't be surprised if you spot a bald eagle. And on a regular basis, Lake Bryan is a good location to find Marsh and Sedge Wren, Swamp and LeConte's Sparrow and American White Pelican.

#### **The Hook Lakeside Bar & Grille**

Lake Bryan is now home to The Hook Lakeside Bar & Grille, which serves the best half-

pound Black Angus hamburger in the Brazos Valley. The catfish tacos with cilantro-lime sauce are gaining fame, too.

Inside The Hook, relax with a game of pool or darts, watch the big game on one of the several TVs, or bring your laptop and surf the Web courtesy of The Hook's wireless Internet service. Prefer the outdoors? Test your skills at washer and horseshoe pitching.

The Hook features live music and the perfect porch for watching the boats come in and the sun going down. Call before you make the drive since seasonal hours may be in effect. (979) 361-0861.

#### **Live music**

Lake Bryan recently hosted the Ziegenbock Music Festival, which attracted thousands to hear Roger Creager, Jack Ingram, Kevin Fowler, Jason Boland and other top Texas artists. You can also enjoy live music year round at Lake Bryan.

#### **How to get there/Hours of operation**

Lake Bryan is minutes from Texas A&M University. The park is 3.3 miles west of FM 2818 on Sandy Point Road (FM 1687), just northwest of Bryan.

For more information, call (979) 361-0861 or visit [www.lakebryan.com](http://www.lakebryan.com).

Admission to Lake Bryan is \$5 per vehicle. Hours of operation are 6 a.m.-9:30 p.m., March 1-Sept. 30; and 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Oct. 1-Feb. 28.



## Bryan High School a National Service-Learning Leader School

Service-Learning is an innovative instructional strategy that actively involves youth in the curriculum through service to their community. Service-learning differs from traditional community service activities in that it intentionally integrates the service experience with the curriculum and allows the student to make meaning of the curriculum through designing and implementing activities and by reflecting on the experience.

Bryan High school has received numerous grants for service-learning from The National Corporation of Service, The Texas Center for Service-Learning, The K-12 School-Community Partnership, The Community-Higher Education-School Partnership, The State Farm Foundation and Wal-mart.

With the help of such grants, BHS has been able to hire a full-time staff member to work with service-learning and community service projects. Grants have also en-

abled service project partnerships with Texas A&M, United Way, Boys and Girls Club Brazos County, City of Bryan, Habitat for Humanity, Keep Brazos Beautiful, The Children's Museum, and Twin City Mission.

The Service-Learning program works towards fulfilling goals that have been set in three-year increments.

Current goals are

- to encourage all BHS students to perform 20 hours of service each semester through service-learning projects and club activities
- to create more Youth Boards/Cabinets in the community
- to strengthen the service clubs at BHS
- to implement service-learning district wide
- to observe and participate in National Days of Service
- to promote civic responsibility
- to help the City of Bryan become a *Community of Promise*

In striving to reach these goals, students are preparing to be participatory and caring citizens of Bryan. In addition, volunteer service is a valuable component to competitive student scholarships, grants and awards as well as presenting critical university admission consideration.

Bryan High's service-learning students have the opportunity to serve on various Youth Boards. Some boards include: United Way Youth Cabinet, Keep Brazos Beautiful Youth Environmental League, Brazos Junior Leadership, Junior Board of Directors- FNB and Keystone- BGCA.

Students work with area businesses, agencies and organizations on the following National Days of Service: October 23--National Make a Difference Day; Jan. 17--Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Feb 2 - National Groundhog Job Shadow Day; April 23--National Youth Service Day.



## Who benefits from service learning?

Through service learning programs, **students** may:

- increase motivation and desire to learn.
- develop responsibility, think critically, make decisions, and solve problems.
- improve academic knowledge and performance, including writing and communication skills.
- cultivate self-perception.
- develop ability to work well with others.
- replace stereotypes with respect for others.
- interact with adults who have different roles in society.
- be exposed to career options including those in public service.
- become more knowledgeable about their community and the resources available for themselves and their families.
- experience civic responsibility.
- begin to develop a lifelong commitment to public service and to learning.

Through service learning programs, **teachers** may:

- observe students' enthusiasm for learning.
- improve communication and understanding among students.
- increase the relevancy of education for students.
- develop curriculum through collaboration with other teachers and community partners.
- learn about many different community organizations and how they serve the populace.
- identify resources to enhance educational opportunities for students.
- bring the classroom and community together.
- feel inspired professionally and personally.
- participate in professional development and become mentors for other teachers.

Through service learning programs, **schools** can:

- combine academic development with civic and social responsibility.
- strengthen career outreach programs.
- develop community partnerships.
- publicize educational opportunities available for students.
- involve more parents.
- give students a sense of the practical importance of what they are learning.
- develop a more inclusive and cooperative school climate and culture.
- invite students to become active community members.
- increase confidence in the school system.
- improve public relations.

Through service learning programs, **communities** can:

- increase resources to address problems and concerns.
- lend expertise in a particular issue area.
- become more knowledgeable about school programs and needs.
- collaborate in planning service learning projects.
- participate in student learning.
- publicly acknowledge the contributions of young people.



For more information about Bryan High School Service-Learning, contact Mary Jane Snedeker, [mjsned@bryanisd.org](mailto:mjsned@bryanisd.org), (979) 209-2504.

## Adult Learning Center providing a community center of education

One of the busiest places in town may also be one of the least-known by the general population, but for dozens of families, the Adult Learning Center (ALC) is the hub of their community.

Located behind Anson Jones Elementary on Palasota Drive, the cluster of portable buildings is alive with activity each weekday from early morning to late evening.

ALC Director Mary Blackburn oversees a variety of programs--from GED classes to evening childcare--

but all of them have an overriding concern: to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy, and ultimately, to have a positive effect on a child's success in school.

Adult Education is open to anyone with a literacy need, says Blackburn.

"We have ESL and GED classes throughout the day and evening to accommodate anyone's work schedule," Blackburn said. Computer classes are offered as well, though they have limited enrollment.

Homework help is offered every Tuesday and Thursday, giving parents a chance to bring their children for extra help while they attend Adult Ed. classes.

Even Start is a grant-funded program which offers dual intervention in the life of a child and of the family with early childhood education, adult education, and parenting classes. The BISD Even Start program is one of only three nationwide, and the only Texas program, nominated as an "Even Start Featured Site." This des-

ignation is based on literacy and language gains in children enrolled in the program.

El Civics is another program which provides English literacy and civics education to immigrants and limited English speaking populations.

All classes are free, but there are income and other qualification guidelines.

For more information, call (979) 775-9294.

## Fewer backups bringing relief

### ■ *Capital improvements and public education are keys to wastewater system success*

Like most older cities in America, many of Bryan's aging wastewater lines are either falling into disrepair or unable to support the growing population. But recent efforts to fund capital improvements to the system, plus a preventative maintenance program and public education campaign, are beginning to produce more compliments than complaints.

#### Eliminating I&I

Having unwanted water, such as rain, enter the wastewater system is called inflow and infiltration, or I&I. Several years ago, Bryan initiated an aggressive program to significantly reduce the ways that unwanted water seeps into cracks, missing manhole covers and open cleanouts. Last summer, a study and some repairs were completed in Bryan's smallest basin, the Turkey Creek Basin. I&I problems were identified by a contractor and city crews, then a campaign was launched to repair the identified line defects. Recent rains have tested progress in the Turkey Creek Basin and, so far, repairs have eliminated system backups and overflows attributed to I&I. But other parts of Bryan require attention.

N o w the focus on eliminating I&I is on the City's second largest basin, the Still Creek Basin. Similar results to those experienced in the Turkey Creek Basin are expected in Still Creek. Fortunately, quick success has already been achieved as crews located two significant trunk lines with either complete or partial obstructions. Equally successful have been efforts to identify and repair private line defects, such as open cleanouts or illegal storm water connections. Since beginning work in this basin, reported system backups and overflows caused by I&I have not occurred.

#### Capital ideas

While the I&I program focuses on quick fixes to the system, the long-term system improvements and modifications are handled through Bryan's Capital Improvement Plan, or CIP. The CIP includes major capital projects, such as complete reconstruction of existing wastewater lines needing repair or

...citizens will benefit from a more-efficient system with fewer system overflows and backups.

replacement, and installation of new lines to accommodate

future growth. As crews are in the field researching and addressing I&I, they can collect and share information with engineering staff as lines are designed for replacement, enhancement and growth.

It may be two years before a complete I&I review of the Still Creek Basin is performed. Some repairs will be made during this process, while other projects will be scheduled as resources become available. In the meantime, CIP projects in the Still Creek Basin will occur. Residents can expect construction on a major wastewater line to begin soon after the first of the year.

Bryan's third and final basin, the Burton Creek Basin, will be its greatest challenge. However, in the last few years some line repairs have occurred in this basin, too, producing a reduction in I&I related events. Even though the I&I focus has been in the Turkey Creek and Still Creek Basins, large CIP projects have provided relief in this basin. With CIP

projects, some I&I issues are eliminated.

#### WWLOD?

What would Lawton, Oklahoma, do? That's what Bryan city staff would like to find out. A decade ago, the City of Lawton received an administrative order from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

While Bryan has not received such directives from the EPA, we realize that failure to take aggressive action could result in similar notifications. Lawton implemented plans to address its I&I and has achieved great success. In fact, they are now touted as a model city by the EPA. The Bryan staff is using Lawton as a benchmark city in terms of a healthy wastewater system.

In future months, focus on I&I will continue and, as we make progress, citizens will benefit from a more-efficient system with fewer system overflows and backups. However, the City of Bryan also realizes that I&I is simply one component to a successful wastewater system. The system's maintenance processes will continually be reviewed and as model cities, such as Lawton, are identified, Bryan will borrow from their successes.

## Ch. 16 airs variety of programming

The City of Bryan's Government Access Television (GATV) channel is Cox Communications Cable Channel 16.

Each day's programming is split equally between the City and the Bryan Independent School District, and viewers will find that Channel 16 is used primarily as an informational and educational tool for Bryan citizens and visitors to the community.

BISD produces a variety of informational and promotional videos about the district's educational programs, schools, staff members, community, initiatives, challenges and successes, while the City offers updates on important projects and developments, spotlights parks and recreational opportunities, and any changes that could affect residents.

Both the City of Bryan and BISD believe that a well-informed community is also a supportive community.

### \* **Bryan City Council Workshop & Regular Meetings** – The next best thing to being there!

#### **Live broadcast:**

Workshop meetings generally begin at 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

Regular meetings begin at 6 p.m. on those same days.

#### **Rebroadcast:**

Mondays - Workshop at 2 p.m.; Regular at 4 p.m.

Tuesdays - Workshop at 6 p.m.; Regular at 8 p.m.

Wednesdays - Workshop at 6 a.m.; Regular at 8 a.m.

Saturdays - Workshop at 12 p.m.; Regular at 2 p.m.

\* **Bryan Board of Trustees Monthly Meetings** - An effort to improve community relations and to provide timely information regarding the policy-making activities of the board.

Airs Weds. 2 p.m., Thurs. 6 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m.

\* **Spotlight on Schools** – A monthly report to the Bryan ISD Board of Trustees on programs of excellence. Each month, a different campus is in the Spotlight.

Airs Daily 9 a.m., noon, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

\* **Promotional Videos** – Short, feature-type spots promoting City and BISD events, programs, and opportunities to the community. Channel 16 has broadcast such videos as updates on Traditions Golf Course and other capital improvement projects, BISD Education Foundation, HOSTS program, BISD's partnership with Radio Alegria, Artfest and Bryan High School theatre performances.

\* **Event Videography** – Channel 16 broadcasts Bryan High School Graduation and the Employee Awards Ceremony and has broadcast local candidate forums during election seasons.

\* **Encore** – A collection of student performances and programs from among the 22 Bryan campuses. This is the opportunity for family and community to watch the children of Bryan in school plays, choir concerts and the like.

Airs Sat. 6 p.m.

\* **Bryan's Best** – produced entirely by Bryan High School's Media Technology Classes, a highlights show for varsity football. The program features Coach Marvin Sedberry and a guest assistant coach each week commenting on the previous game with highlights from the game and player interviews. Bryan's Best also produces a feature package focusing on other sports and activities like cheerleaders, Shy-Annes, volleyball, golf, swimming, etc. etc.

Airs Thurs. and Fri. 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.

\* **The Bryan High School Viking Varsity Football Game from the previous week.**

Airs Weds. 7 p.m.

\* **Bryan High School Daily Announcements** – produced by BHS Media Tech, Channel 16 broadcasts the high school's daily student-run announcements.

Airs Daily 11 a.m.

\* **Emergency Information** – school closures, transportation changes, victim assistance information, etc.

\* **City of Bryan and Bryan ISD Employment Opportunities**

\* **Daily Calendar of Events**

\* **School Lunch Menus**

\* **Campus Slideshows**

\* **Recognition of city department, employee, school, personnel and student achievement**

\* **City and School District Contact Information**

\* **Coming soon:** Planning & Zoning meeting broadcasts and an improved *Bryan: An Inside Look* magazine show about development projects, city programs and things that truly make our city The Good Life, Texas Style!

## Feeling better?

### ■ *Thank the school nurse*

Just ask any school nurse and they will tell you they have the best job in the world. Where else do you get to positively impact students from age 3 to 22 on a daily basis? From Band-Aids to specialized medical procedures, school nurses provide health care for the 14, 377 students and approximate 2000 staff members of BISD. Their primary role is to support student learning by promoting health and safety. Skills in critical thinking, decision-making, communication, health education and child advocacy are a must. The school nurses have expertise in pediatric, public health and mental health nursing and they support student learning in a variety of ways.

The school nurses serve as the health professionals for the school community. Services provided by BISD nurses include: illness and injury assessment, intervention, and referral; health assessments; participation in development of individualized education plans for students with special needs; special procedures such as tracheostomy care, urinary catheterization, and gastrostomy tube feedings; medication administration; chronic disease management and education, disaster response planning, just to name a few.

The BISD nurses have a strong community connection. They have a spirit of volunteerism and great charity of heart. As school nurses, they recognize that the community is a vital and integral component to the success of our BISD students. BISD nurses serve the community as volunteers with the following: Junior League, Scotty's Home, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, MASH, Stuff the Bus and community clothing and food drives. Because they know school nursing is a specialty in itself, they partner with Blinn College School of Nursing as mentors for nursing students.

BISD's nursing staff of 19 registered nurses and 3 licensed vocational nurses are committed to providing quality health care in a compassionate manner. The nurses are an important link in the educational process for each student.

Their mission statement reads, "The goal of the BISD nurses will be to provide health and educational services to the school community by removing health barriers to learning."

It's a daily mission with a life-long effect.



## Bryan visitor center targeted for 2005

■ *Historic site commemorates early Bryan founder*

After years of discussion, a new visitor center built on historically-significant property in Bryan could become a reality by late 2005.

A half-million dollar grant from the Texas Department of Transportation will help fund construction of what will be known as the Hoppess Visitor Center at Coulter Square. The site is bounded by William Joel Bryan Parkway, Houston Avenue, Preston Avenue and 26<sup>th</sup> Street near Historic Downtown.

Within the next month, City of Bryan and TxDOT staffs are expected to request bids for the roughly 3,000 square foot facility that will feature office space and a museum area that also can be used as a meeting place. The museum is intended to house transportation-related exhibits that will change on a regular basis, while staffing the office area will be assisted by the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### About the location

In honor and memory of Coulter T. Hoppess and Lily Rush Walker



Architectural rendering of the Hoppess Visitor Center to be constructed on Coulter Square, at the corner of William Joel Bryan Parkway and Houston Ave.

Hoppess, their family donated Coulter Square to the City of Bryan in 2001 for use as a visitor center.

The land is significant to Bryan's history as it was purchased in 1871 by one of Bryan's original founders, John William Coulter. The house that stood at this site, and the entire city block, is now known as Coulter Square.

The first home on this site was constructed in 1867 by Thomas D. Harrison. In 1903, the Coulter family commissioned a two-story home

with large rooms used for entertaining. To construct the 1903 house, the 1867 house was reduced to two rooms and a porch. This remnant remains on the site today, along with the original Coulter Carriage House. Recently, these two structures were restored by the Hoppess family.

Located along an important gateway to Historic Downtown, the Hoppess Visitor Center at Coulter Square no doubt will serve as a hub for information and education about Bryan for many generations.

## Annual wrestling, basketball tourneys kick off busy break

While the winter break may signal a vacation for some, for a number of Bryan athletes, it means an opportunity to showcase their sport to the community.

The 8th annual Doc Hess Memorial Classic Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 18 is the largest tournament in the state, and stands in the top three nationwide by the number of entries.

Over 1400 wrestlers from 45 teams around the state will converge on the Bryan High School campus, competing in five divisions: boys varsity, boys junior varsity, boys freshman/rookie, girls varsity, and girls junior varsity.

Wrestling begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude with finals around 8 p.m. An all-day pass to all venues is \$5.

Tournament director Michael Zito says a number of state champions typically enter the meet.

"The competition is very high in the boys and girls varsity rooms," Zito said.

Also on tap for the holidays is the 5th Annual Bryan-College Station All-Star Invitational Basketball Tournament Dec. 28-30. This tournament showcases both Bryan and A&M Consolidated High School boys and girls teams, as well as 28 other high school teams throughout the state.

Games will be held on both high school campuses beginning at 9 a.m. each day. Admission is \$5 adult/\$3 child day passes, or \$12 adult/\$7 child tournament passes.

For information, contact:  
(wrestling) mzito@bryanisd.org  
(basketball) drew@bcsvb.org



The Bryan FFA chapter will celebrate its **75th Anniversary** on May 1, 2005.

An Open House will be held at the Bryan High School Blue Campus on May 1, 2005, from 2-6 p.m.

An FFA monument will be dedicated at 4 p.m.

All former and current FFA members are invited to celebrate the occasion. Members are asked to send current address information to [ffa@bryanisd.org](mailto:ffa@bryanisd.org). Please make plans to join the Bryan FFA as they celebrate 75 years of leadership development, personal growth and career success.